

PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA

Wednesday, 12th May 2021 at 7.15pm

This meeting of the Partnership Development Scrutiny Committee is an evidence gathering session only and no formal decisions will be taken as part of this meeting.

The meeting will be held via Zoom and by the
Council's YouTube channel
– Braintree District Council Committees.

Members of the public will be able to view and listen to this meeting via YouTube.
To access the meeting please use the link below:

<http://www.braintree.gov.uk/youtube>

Members of the Partnership Development Scrutiny Committee are requested to attend this meeting to transact the business set out in the Agenda.

Councillor J Baugh	Councillor Mrs J Pell
Councillor G Courtauld (Vice-Chairman)	Councillor Mrs J Sandum
Councillor Mrs M Cunningham (Chairman)	Councillor P Thorogood
Councillor A Hensman	Councillor Mrs L Walters
Councillor T McArdle	

Members unable to attend the meeting are requested to forward their apologies for absence to the Governance and Members Team on 01376 552525 or email governance@braintree.gov.uk by 3pm on the day of the meeting.

A WRIGHT
Chief Executive

INFORMATION FOR MEMBER – DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS’ INTERESTS

Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI), Other Pecuniary Interests (OPI) or Non-Pecuniary Interests (NPI).

Any Member with a DPI, OPI or NPI must declare the nature of their interest in accordance with the Code of Conduct. Members must not participate in any discussion of the matter in which they have declared a DPI or OPI or participate in any vote, or further vote, taken on the matter at the meeting. In addition, the Member must withdraw from the Chamber where the meeting considering the business is being held unless the Member has received a dispensation from the Monitoring Officer.

Public Question Time – Registration and Speaking:

In response to the Coronavirus the Council has implemented procedures for Public Question Time for its virtual meetings which are hosted via Zoom.

The Agenda allows for a period of up to 30 minutes for Public Question Time.

Participation will be via the submission of a written question or statement which will be read out by an Officer or the Registered Speaker during the meeting. All written questions or statements should be concise and should be able to be read **within 3 minutes** allotted for each question/statement.

Members of the public wishing to participate are requested to register by contacting the Governance and Members Team on 01376 552525 or email governance@braintree.gov.uk by midday on the second working day before the day of the Committee meeting. For example, if the Committee meeting is due to be held on a Tuesday, the registration deadline is midday on Friday, (where there is a bank holiday Monday you will need to register by midday on the previous Thursday).

The Council reserves the right to decline any requests to register for Public Question Time if they are received after the registration deadline.

Upon registration members of the public may indicate whether they wish to read their question/statement or to request an Officer to read their question/statement on their behalf during the virtual meeting. Members of the public who wish to read their question/statement will be provided with a link to attend the meeting to participate at the appropriate part of the Agenda.

All registered speakers are required to submit their written questions/statements to the Council by no later than 9am on the day of the meeting by emailing them to governance@braintree.gov.uk. In the event that a registered speaker is unable to connect to the virtual meeting their question/statement will be read by an Officer.

Questions/statements received by the Council will be published on the Council’s website. The Council reserves the right to remove any defamatory comment in the submitted questions/statements.

The Chairman of the Committee has discretion to extend the time allocated for public question time and to amend the order in which questions/statements are presented to the Committee.

Documents: Agendas, Reports, Minutes and Public Question Time questions and statements can be accessed via www.braintree.gov.uk

Data Processing: During the meeting the Council will be collecting performance data of participants' connectivity to the meeting. This will be used for reviewing the functionality of Ms Teams/Zoom and YouTube as the Council's platform for virtual meetings and for monitoring compliance with the legal framework for Council meetings. Anonymised performance data may be shared with third parties.

For further information on how the Council processes data, please see the Council's Privacy Policy. https://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200136/access_to_information/376/privacy_policy

We welcome comments to make our services as efficient and effective as possible. If you have any suggestions regarding the meeting you have attended, you can send these to governance@braintree.gov.uk

PUBLIC SESSION

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Declaration of Interests

1. To declare the existence and nature of any interests relating to items on the agenda having regard to the Code of Conduct for Members and having taken appropriate advice (where necessary) before the meeting.
2. To declare the existence and nature of any instruction given by or on behalf of a political group to any Councillor who is a member of that group as to how that Councillor shall speak or vote on any matter before the Committee or the application or threat to apply any sanction by the group in respect of that Councillor should he/she speak or vote on any particular matter.

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Partnership Development Group held on 31st March 2021 (copy previously circulated).

4 Public Question Time

(See paragraph above)

5 Scrutiny Review into Enforcement Procedures at Braintree District Council - Second Evidence Gathering Session

Officers from the Council's Operations Service have been invited to attend the meeting as part of the evidence gathering sessions for the Scrutiny Review.

The Officers to attend are:-

- Steve Wilson, Operations Manager
- Stuart Thompson, Assistant Manager (Street Scene)

During the session, Members will be invited to ask questions of the Officers on the Council's enforcement arrangements and partnership working for enforcement with reference to the Terms of Reference for this Scrutiny Review (copy attached).

6 Urgent Business - Public Session

To consider any matter which, in the opinion of the Chairman, should be considered in public by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

Partnership Development Scrutiny Committee – Enforcement Procedures at Braintree District Council

Key questions for Scrutiny Review:

- What areas of enforcement fall to the Council as the District Authority, and are these effective?
- What new enforcement powers were provided to the Council in light of new regulations arising out of the Covid-19 Pandemic?
- What partnerships does the Council have in place in order to strengthen its enforcement activity?
- How does the Council utilise intelligence it holds or it receives from third parties in order to work with its partners to implement enforcement (e.g. Community Safety Partnership Annual Report, Planning and Licensing Enforcement, Complaints procedures, NEPP, etc)?
- Under the Council's original enforcement powers, what new approaches have the Council exercised over the past 12 months to strengthen the actions it takes, and which partners were involved? Future barriers (e.g. High Court Injunctions, Search Warrants, Dangerous Building Warrants, etc)?
- Going forward, how can the Council improve its relationships with its partners in order to further strengthen its enforcement activities, and how could this be achieved (e.g. Litigation criticisms, management of complaints, crossover enforcement between BDC and Chelmsford CC, Colchester BC, etc)?

Key Contacts: *Planning, Licensing, Operations, other L Auths, etc*

Note: *Due to the potential broadness of the topic, Members are asked to focus on specific areas of enforcement such as Planning, Licensing, etc. Members are also asked to be mindful of unique pressures being faced by various departments within the Council at the moment, particularly around officer availability and resource capacity.*